

Wisconsin Interpretations
FAMILY CHILD CARE – FCCERS-R
5/12/15

As technical assistance occurs in child care programs, it is important for YoungStar Technical Consultants, providers, and other trainers/technical assistance providers to provide information on what the ECERS-R, ITERS-R, FCCERS-R or SACERS tools will be looking at, and also what the intent is of the ECERS-R, ITERS-R, FCCERS-R or SACERS observation.

The Wisconsin Interpretations are given precedence when the Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Wisconsin licensing regulations are determined to be in contrast to each other at the 1 (inadequate), 3 (minimal) or 5 (good) levels of the indicators for the specific items of the ERS or need further explanation. The Wisconsin Interpretation Explanation section following the ERS items and specific indicators has the explanations for the Wisconsin Interpretations.

Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale – Revised (FCCERS-R)

Hand washing will be scored as intended by the authors*. 20 seconds minimal for hand washing. Staff hand washing should occur prior to diapering.

Although a change to the diapering procedures has been made to the Notes for Clarification on the ERSI website, that change will not be implemented for scoring YoungStar formal ratings.

“Keep out of the Reach of Children” will be scored as intended by the authors as locked away.

**** See Item 11.**

Minimum Indoor Temperature

Item 1, Indicators 1.2 and 3.2 (ECERS-R, ITERS-R, FCCERS-R, and SACERS)

1.2 Lacks adequate temperature control.

3.2 Adequate temperature control.

The ERS tools require that the spaces or rooms used by children must be kept at a comfortable temperature. Wisconsin licensing rules require that the inside temperature may not be less than 67°F in all indoor spaces. “Indoor spaces” refers to all spaces served by the building’s ventilation system (heating and/or air conditioning). Since sensitivity to room temperature varies greatly, the adequacy of the room temperature will be judged based on how comfortable the children and adults appear to be. The temperature will only be checked if the children and/or staff indicate discomfort based on the room temperature.

Item 7. Greeting/departing.

3.3 Parents enter caregiving area as part of daily greeting and departing routines.

FCCERS-R NOTES FOR CLARIFICATION: Give credit as long as parents come into any part of the home where children spend any part of the day. Parents cannot be prohibited from going into any of the child care areas. Mark as Yes when children are being transported to and from center, by center transportation (children are not brought to the program by their parents).

Item 8. Nap/rest.

1.2 Provisions for nap/rest not appropriate. (Ex. Crowded area; sleeping children disturbed; infants put to sleep on stomach; suffocation hazards in cribs).

AND

3.2 Healthful provisions for nap/rest. (Ex. Cribs/cots/mats at least 36 inches apart unless separated by a solid barrier; clean bedding for each child.) Each child who has a nap or rest period shall be provided with an individual bed, cot, sleeping bag, 2-inch thick mat, crib or playpen, which is placed at least 3 feet from the next sleeping child. Cribs or cots may be placed end-to-end if a solid partition separates children and an aisle not less than 3 feet in width is maintained between cribs and cots.

Wisconsin Interpretation

EXPLANATION: Wisconsin Licensing Rules – Each child who has a nap or rest period shall be provided with an individual bed, cot, sleeping bag, 2-inch thick mat, crib or playpen, which is placed at least 2 feet from the next sleeping child. Cribs or cots may be placed end-to-end if a solid partition separates children and an aisle not less than 2 feet in width is maintained between cribs and cots. Solid screens or other barriers, such as crib ends or toy shelved that extend from floor to ceiling are not required, however, there must still be a solid partition separating children.

When scoring the FCCERS-R, 1.2 will be scored as NO. When scoring the FCCERS-R, 3.2 will be scored as YES.

ADDITIONAL: The licensing rules require a sheet and blanket or a sleeping bag. Each sleep linen (sheets, blankets, etc.) shall be assigned to a child and shall be used only by that child while he/she is enrolled in the facility. Children may share bedding if it has been laundered between uses by the different children. Each mat, cot, or crib mattress shall be covered with the child's individual sheet for exclusive use by that child. No child shall sleep on a bare uncovered surface. Seasonally appropriate covering such as sheets or blankets that are sufficient to maintain adequate warmth shall be available and shall be used by each child. Cots and sleeping bags and two-inch thick mats, shall be long enough so the child's head or feet do not rest off the pad. A sleeping bag is a bag that is closed or capable of being closed on three sides. Sleeping bags may be provided by the center or the parent.

Sheets or blankets used to cover the child, as required by licensing, shall be tucked tightly under the mattress and shall be kept away from the child's mouth and nose. If the child pulls the blanket out during naptime, the provider must ensure that the blanket is kept away from the child's mouth and nose. Children under one year of age may not sleep in a crib or playpen that contains soft materials such as sheepskins, pillows, fluffy blankets, bumper pads, or stuffed animals.

If a program uses a sleep sack, this will be considered as a blanket. No violation of the rule would occur (as long as there was a sheet on the crib mattress). If the program chooses to go blanket-free, not using either a sleeping bag or sleep sack, the program would be in violation of the rule and would be cited for not meeting the requirements. If individual/separate sheets and blankets are used, then the blanket must be tucked tightly under the child. The program could choose to use a sleep sack instead of a separate blanket. The center cannot go blanket-free and meet the licensing rule unless they use sleeping bags, which are not considered appropriate for children under age one.

When scoring the FCCERS-R, 1.2 will be scored as No. 3.2 will be scored as Yes.

Wisconsin Interpretations will be followed for criteria for definition of a crib. Wisconsin licensing definition: Crib means a bed for an infant or young child that is enclosed on four sides including playpens and portable cribs. Pack N Plays will meet the criteria for crib.

- Source: If portable cribs and those that are not full size are substituted for regular full-sized cribs, they must be maintained in the condition that meets the ASTM Standard F1822-97 Consumer Safety Specification for Non-Full-Size Baby Cribs. Portable cribs are designed so they may be folded or collapsed, with or without disassembly. Although portable cribs are not designed to withstand the wear and tear of normal full-sized cribs, they may provide more flexibility for programs that vary the number of infants in care from time to time.

Standard 5.145, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education, 2nd edition.

AND

3.3 Sufficient supervision will be given to infants during nap by checking through sight and sound every 15 minutes with working monitors in place. Sufficient supervision provided for older children during nap.

Cribs/Mattresses. Since cribs with sides that drop down are now longer considered safe for children, this will be considered in both the Nap item and Safety item. See item 8 and Item 12.

Safety standards document that cribs used in facilities should be made of wood, metal, or plastic. Crib slats should be spaced no more than two and three-eighths inches apart, with a firm mattress that is fitted so that no more than two fingers can fit between the mattress and the crib side in the lowest position. The minimum height from the top of the mattress to the top of the crib rail should be twenty inches in the highest position. Cribs with drop sides should not be used. The crib should not have corner post extensions (over one-sixteenth inch). The crib should have not cutout openings in the headboard or footboard structure in which a child's head could become entrapped. The mattress support system should not be easily dislodged from any point of the crib by an upward force from underneath the crib. All cribs should meet the STM F1169-10a Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Full-Size Baby Cribs, F406-10b Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Non-Full-Size Baby Cribs/Play Yards, or the CPSC 16 CFR 1219, 1220, and 1500 – Safety Standards for Full-Size Baby Cribs and Non-Full-Size Baby Cribs; Final Rule.

Wisconsin Interpretation

EXPLANATION : The Consumer Product Safety Commission requires that a full-size crib will have the interior dimensions of no greater than 27 3/8" to 28 5/8" ($28 \pm 5/8$ inches) (71 ± 1.6 centimeters) in width x 52 3/8 \pm 5/8 inches (133 ± 1.6 centimeters) in length. The mattress used in a full-size crib must be at least 27 1/4 inches wide x 51 1/4 inches in length with a thickness not exceeding 6 inches. The measurement of the height of the mattress and the outside edge of the mattress to the inside of the crib side will be conducted with a tape measure and not the two-finger measurement as indicated in the ERS. The measurement of the distance from the inside edge at the side of the crib to the mattress will not exceed 1 1/2" or a combined total of 1 1/2" with both sides measured (crib mattress may have moved to one side).

Items 9, 10 and 11 specific to hand washing. See Explanation.

Item 9. Meals/snacks.

- 1.3 Basic sanitary procedures usually neglected.
- 3.3 Basic sanitary procedures maintained at least half of the time.
- 5.3 Basic sanitary procedures usually practiced.

Item 10. Toileting/diapering.

- 1.3 Hand washing often neglected by provider or children after diapering/toileting.
- 3.3 Provider and children usually wash hands after diapering/toileting.

Item 11. Health practices.

- 1.1 Provider does not usually act to cut down on the spread of germs.
- 3.1 Provider acts to cut down on the spread of germs at least half of the time.
- 5.1 Provider usually acts to cut down on the spread of germs.
- 7.1 Children encouraged to manage health practices independently.

Wisconsin Interpretation

EXPLANATION: Wisconsin Licensing Rules: Disinfecting hand sanitizers may not replace the use of soap and water when washing hands. Staff and children will need to use water and soap or soap and water-based wet wipes. Disinfecting hand sanitizers are not allowed.

Item 10. Toileting/diapering.

The goal of the item 10 (page 26) Toileting/diapering is to "minimize the spread of germs to the provider or child's hands, the diapering surface, containers of supplies, cabinet doors, or any other surface the children and provider might touch."

The quality indicators identified within this subscale begin with the indicator 1.1: Sanitary conditions of area are not usually maintained. (Ex. Toilet/sinks dirty; diapering table/potty chairs not sanitized after each use, toilets rarely flushed).

Within the Notes for Clarification (page 27) - in the FCCERS-R tool 1.1 indicates " If the same sink is used by either children or adults for both diapering/toileting and food-related routines (including teeth brushing) or for other purposes (to wash toys/other classroom equipment; after wiping nose), it must be sanitized by spraying sink and faucets with a bleach solution after diapering/toileting use. As an exception to this rule, in order to avoid requiring children to wash hands in quick succession between toileting and being fed, the following applies: if children use toilet, wash hands and then immediately sit down for meal/snack, contamination of children's hands at toileting sink must be minimized by having children/adults turn off faucet with paper towel.

Further additional information in the *All About ITERS-R* page 108 indicates: If the same sink is used by either children or adults for both diapering/toileting and food-related routines (including brushing teeth) or for other purposes (for example, to wash toys or other classroom equipment), it must be sanitized after diaper/toileting use by spraying the sinks and faucets with a bleach solution. All use of the sink for one purpose can be completed before the sink needs to be sanitized for another use.

Item 12. Safety practices.

1.2 Four or more hazards that could result in serious injury outdoors.

AND

3.1 No more than 3 safety hazards that could result in serious injury indoors and outdoors, combined.

AND

5.2 Provider usually anticipates and takes action to eliminate safety hazards (Ex. removes toys under climbing equipment; closes gate or locks dangerous areas to keep children in safe space; wipes up spills to prevent falls).

Item 26. Active physical play.

1.2 Space (outdoor or indoor) used for active physical play is generally very dangerous. (ex. access requires long walk on busy street; unfenced area; insufficient cushioning under majority of climbing equipment).

When scoring ITERS-R 1.2, *NA (Not applicable) is permitted.* See Explanation.

AND

3.2 Spaces for active physical play are generally safe (Ex. sufficient cushioning under climbing equipment; fenced in outdoor area).

When scoring ITERS-R 3.2, *NA (Not applicable) is permitted.* See Explanation.

AND

5.4 All space and equipment (outdoor and/or indoor) are safe and appropriate for children who are allowed to use them.

Wisconsin Interpretation

EXPLANATION: From December 1 to March 31, if children do not use outdoor equipment with platforms over 18 inches tall, insufficient cushioning will not be cited as a safety hazard when scoring this indicator. Formal Raters will not cite insufficient cushioning as a safety hazard if they have observed the program at times when children are not present because they would be unable to know if the children use the equipment with platforms over 18 inches tall.

Rationale: Accumulated snow does not provide adequate cushioning to protect against head injuries. Additionally, surface types such as loose-fill cushioning (wood mulch and rubber mulch), sand, pea gravel, and poured-in-place cushioning can freeze and lose their shock absorbency in winter/cold weather. Children can be permitted to use other equipment that does not require a cushioned fall surface. Other safety hazards in the gross motor space may still be cited as a safety hazard when scoring this indicator.

Note: For programs with fenced gross motor areas. When snow is cleared/moved and piled next to the fence, it can reduce the effective height of the fence. Licensing requires that fences are 48 inches high. Fence height should be considered when deciding where cleared snow will be placed, so that the required fence height can be maintained. Reduced fence height will be cited as a safety hazard.

Item 12. Safety practices.

5.1 Home as passed official fire inspection, and emergency evacuation procedures are practiced monthly with children. See Explanation.

Wisconsin Interpretation

EXPLANATION: There are two parts to this indicator and this will be scored. However, the provider may present documentation that an inspection was requested and refused because the Fire Marshall/Chief does not provide this service for the community in which the program is located. The

Fire Marshall/Chief must provide a signed statement or an email that indicates the above. The portion of the indicator will be scored as met.

Over-the-Counter Medications/Sunscreen/Bug Spray/Hand Lotion.

Wisconsin Interpretation

For the purposes of YoungStar, the Wisconsin Licensing Rules will apply to over-the-counter medications as written in the Wisconsin Licensing Rules 250, 251, 252, 202.

Wisconsin Licensing Rules: Center staff may give prescription or non-prescription medication, such as pain relievers, teething gels or cough syrup, to a child only under the following conditions:

- a written authorization that includes the child's name and birthdate,
- name of medication,
- administration instructions,
- medication intervals and
- length of the authorization dated and signed by the parent is on file.

Blanket authorizations that exceed the length of time specified on the label are prohibited. The center may develop its own form or may accept a written authorization from the parent in the form of a note, but either format must include the child's name and date of birth, the name of the medication and administration instructions, the medication interval and the length of the authorization and it must be signed and dated by the parent. The parent's authorization may not exceed the time specified on the label of the medication (usually 7 – 10 days). Sunscreen and insect repellent may only be applied upon the written authorization of the parent. All medications shall be stored so that they are not accessible to children. **"Keep out of the Reach of Children" will be scored as intended by the authors as locked away.**

Item 26. Active physical Play.

1.1 Space (outdoor or indoor) used for active physical play is generally very dangerous (Ex. Access requires long walk on busy street; unfenced area; insufficient cushioning under majority of climbing equipment.) When scoring FCCERS-R, 1.1 *NA (Not applicable) is permitted*. See Explanation.

AND

3.1 Spaces for active physical play are generally safe (Ex. Sufficient cushioning under climbing equipment; fenced-in outdoor area). When scoring FCCERS-R, 3.1, *NA (Not applicable) is permitted*. See Explanation.

AND

5.4 All space and equipment (outdoor and/or indoor are safe and appropriate for children who are allowed to use them). When scoring FCCERS-R, 3.1 *NA (Not applicable) is permitted*. See Explanation.

Wisconsin Interpretation

EXPLANATION: *NA permitted* for the outdoor space used for active physical play if children do not use the equipment for lack of cushioning material when there is snow on the playground. Snow does not count for adequate surfacing and if the playground has snow on it, the children cannot be on any equipment over 18 inches tall (the height that requires cushioning for head injuries). Children can use other portable equipment or programs can choose to have the playground cleared of snow.

Additional Items:

Safety Practices for Glass in the Home

A family child care program may have glass or stoneware lamps with light bulbs, TV/video entertainment centers, curio cabinets, sliding glass shower doors, patio doors, mirrors (wall and floor to higher) and choose to serve children meals with stoneware or glassware on glass tabletops. Items other than the previous examples will need to be placed out of reach back and/or away from children's reach (ex. glass figurines, vases). In these environments, providers must have adequate supervision to protect children's safety indoors and outdoors. The provider should anticipate and take action to eliminate safety hazards. Children (older infants) need to be seen as frequently using all the furnishings accessible to them to pull up (being able to withstand toppling, shaking, or collapsing) in order to be counted as a safety hazard.

NOTE: A provider must have adequate supervision to protect children's safety indoors and outdoors. Children in a family care environment have the opportunity to learn about safety and being safe in a home with a provider that is using adequate supervision to protect children's safety.

Final determination of any Wisconsin modified scoring must continue to meet all Wisconsin licensing and certification health and safety standards.

Notes

*Environment Rating Scale Institute. Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Dr. Thelma Harms, Dr. Debbie Cryer, Dr. Richard Clifford.

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